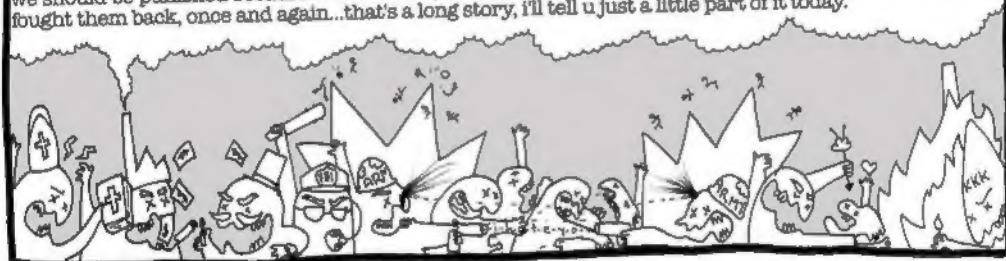


a queer zine tale

by lagomine

once upon a time...there were some some ugly dangerous creatures messing up and destroying the world. They wanted everybody to think and act as they did, if you didn't they hit, insulted and burned you. They were bad and ugly. Because some of us refused to follow their stupid rules, they said we were "queer" and we should be punished because we were evil, sinners, unnatural. But we were proud to be queers and we fought them back, once and again...that's a long story, i'll tell u just a little part of it today.



and then, there were also those creatures who hide themselves under a rainbow, thinking they were different from the nasty ones...

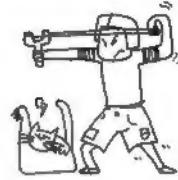
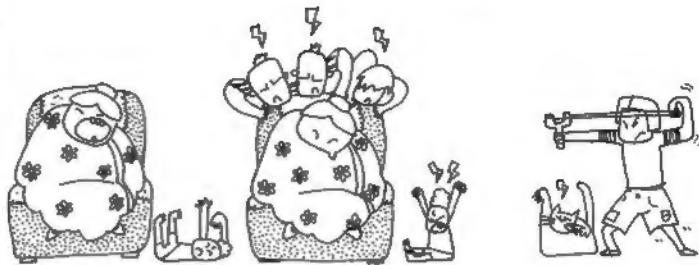
the GAY ones!!! They thought they were different because they went to bed with somebody of the same genital sex. But indeed, they reproduced exactly the straight-binary-capitalist system of the nasty ones!!!



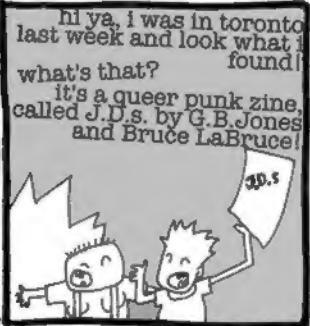
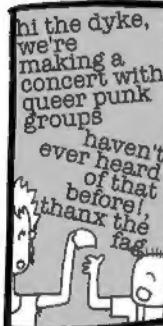
"queer zines don't much have a history as they do have a mythologie, a legacy of provocation and individual empowerment. In many ways, they represent the lost locales and forgotten moments that history fails to account for." (broken pencil #9)

and then!!!

ready, steady.....



that's poppy in butchy dyke in 1985

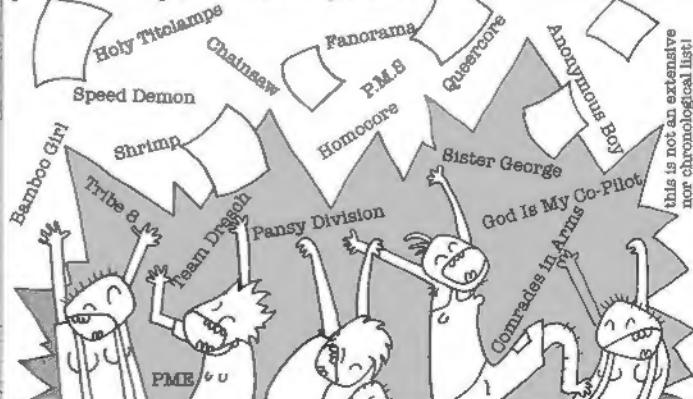


"Don't be gay", that's a good title for a queer manifesto. Look, photos and articles on queer sex and queer punk groups!!!

and those mad drawings by G.B.Jones...



J.D.s was not the 1st queer zine (Daughters of Bilitis and the Mattachine Society the pre-stonewall queer groups already did zines!), but it was the one who launched and invented the term QUEERCORE: a subgenre of punk addressing queer desires and ideas, in opposition to mainstream gay and lesbian culture and only straight-male punk community. From 1985, queer zines were blooming in North-America, and soon around the world....It was the 80s and the early 90s...time for queercore and riot grrrlz!!!!



This period saw a lot of activity by zinesters, punk musicians and underground film makers working in Super-8 format: everyone was sending things around!



This loosely connected network of queer do-it-yourselfers, creators of a "counter-culture" in opposition of gay mainstream one, supported each other's work through mail-art and correspondence. It was inevitable that a gathering to thrust queer faces, bodies and arts into a single space for a few days would take place!

SPEW, Chicago May 1991: no longer satisfied with being an unheard sub-group of an already marginalized movement, young queers created an amazing scene during the late 80 and early 90. SPEW was such a success that it was held again on the following years: 1992 in Los Angeles and 1993 in Toronto.



During SPEW 1, Mark Freitas and Joanna Brown formed Homocore Chicago: the monthly shows produced queer and riot grrrl bands (the movement has just emerged): Fifth Column, Tribe 8, Team Dresch, Bikini Kill.

After SPEW Toronto some queer punks came together to form Candy Machine Productions: scheming bands, zinesters and open mikes, they produced inspiring work from underground Super-8 queer filmmakers as Greta Snyder, Bruce LaBruce, Suzy Richter. The Candy nights continued to emphasize and develop the new sense of community that has been created by SPEW

hi the queers!



And as new politics and its reflections within queer culture were rising, new zines were also coming into scene...

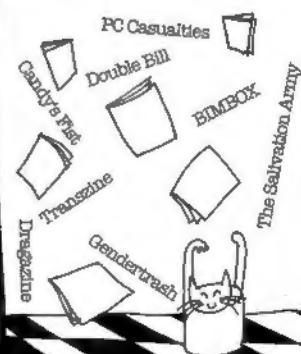
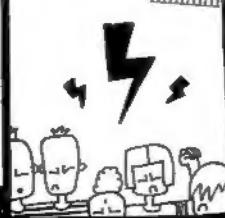


hiiii...it was such a delicious period...hiiiiiiii



but u are too young to hear these stories...

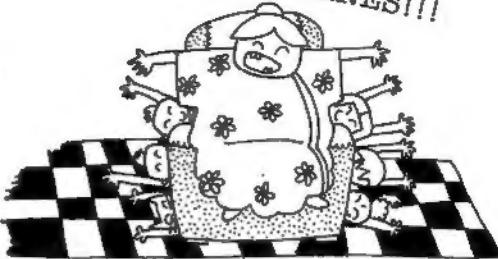
it was so good hiiiiiiii



and HOP!
that's the end of the tale!

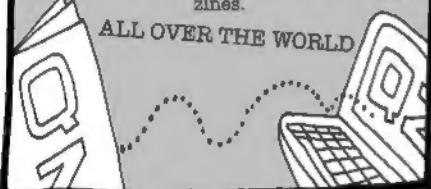


but not the end of
QUEER ZINES!!!



the Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP), a queer zine resource and collection web-site, provide a free on-line searchable database, allowing users to download electronic copies of zines. Thanks to web sites and festivals (Queerup, Homo A Go Go, Ladyfest, Denver and Montreal zine festivals) queer do-it-yourselfers can find, share and exchange zines.

ALL OVER THE WORLD



queer zines are not a North American exclusivity, more and more queer zines are being published in South America, Australia and Europe*

Zona Livre Not just Boy's fun Mutants-at-work
(Portugal) (Germany) (France)
Boy crazy Boy Somos You Rock my World
(UK) (Argentina, from 1975!) (Germany)
Homoxidal SOO Ovary Action Bang Bang
(Norway) (France/Switzerland)
Clit Rocket (Argentina) (Australia)
Hello Pussy Androzine Radix
(Netherlands) (Brazil) (Belgium)
Androzine (Brazil) Speed Demon
(France) (Italy)

*I'm sure queer zines exist in Africa and Asia: please give me all the information you have about queer zines in both continents!

"As long as a bland and commercialized mainstream gay culture pervades, there are going to be zines to rupture through some of that commodified narcissism. As long as there are still radical sexual ideas, as long as there are segregated gender bars in the gay scene, as long as there are HIV positive people who are treated badly by those who should know better, queer zines will continue to act as an important (sub) subcultural force. From sex workers to transsexuals, the seamier, grittier and more honest underside of queer culture can be found represented in queer zines and their homocore inspired up-front attitude.

Queer Zines and Queercore are, increasingly, the only alternatives to a growing gay monoculture."
(broken pencil #9)



drawings and text by lolagouine: lilettdesgouines.blogspot.com

This is just a short tale from a beautiful and complex story. I did not intend to make "exact" zines and authors lists, sorry to all who are not there and who should be.

If you want to know more and do your own researches, here you've got some useful links to check: diy learning and exploring is the best way to get knowledge and experience.

QZAP: www.qzap.org

Grrl Zine Network: www.grrrlzines.net

Queer Zine Explosion: www.io.com/~larrybob/qze.html

Broken Pencil: www.brokenpencil.com

Zine Book: www.zinebook.com

Bookmobil Project: www.mobilitvre.org

Queerup: www.queerup.org

Do It Yourself Search: www.diysearch.com

Independent Publishing Resource Center: www.iprc.org

a heartfelt thank to all the people who helped me and encouraged me in this mad project: Milo and Chris from the Qzap, Nina from Echo distro, Derek, Elena, the Q10 organizers, Sev and Vero. Merci à Sonia and catmates for letting me share their bed!